



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
IMMT- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

September 16, 2020

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Present

Tia Britton
Shirley Fleming
Cheryl Floyd
Stephannie James
Jessica Lamberson
Tamela Milan-Alexander
Pam Roesch
Karyn Stewart

Guests

Jeb Backe
Jocelyn Vega

Virtual Meeting to occur via Cisco WebEx

Video Conference:

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m334ce265a45fbd5c50f6231419fed6cd>

Access Code: 133 774 7512

Join by Phone:

Telephone: (312) 535-8110 United States Toll (Chicago) / (415) 655-0002 US Toll

Event Number (accesscode): 133 774 7512

Call to Order:

The subcommittee meeting began at 1:04 pm with a welcome and check-in from Tamela Milan-Alexander, Subcommittee Co-Lead. Roll was taken, and the agenda approved with a minor edit. Dr. Shirley Fleming led the group in a centering exercise. Minutes from the September 2, 2020 meeting were reviewed and approved with no edits.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Discussion of Articles

The group discussed the two articles Dr. Fleming sent out prior to the meeting. They noted that the article regarding a program in Jersey where there was public funding for Doulas was an idea that may be good to adopt in Illinois. One member stated that it would provide the support needed for many

pregnant moms who cannot afford a private doula. She suggested a pilot project for Illinois. Another topic discussed was the lack of people of color in the medical pipeline. The group expressed its belief that there are systematic barriers keeping people of color out of provider positions. It was suggested that the group look at the pipeline to medical school as well as nursing, midwifery and even community health workers. One member stated that the subcommittee should gather information regarding what other organizations are doing to diversify the provider pool. Another member also said that the group should consider programs directed at college students, high school students as well as elementary aged students. One member specifically mentioned the Hispanic Center of Excellence as a starting point.

There was a question of how these articles could inform the Listening Sessions. Everyone thought it would be a good idea to add probing questions regarding experiences with other types of providers (e.g., doulas, midwives, and community health workers).

There was also a suggestion of asking probing questions around patients' ability to advocate for themselves.

The group agreed that its primary focus is on women's experiences and interactions with providers of care and not just on actual services received.

Illinois Maternal Health Task Force (I PROMOTE-IL)

This item was added to the agenda and agreed upon by all who were present for the meeting. Kenya McRae and Dr. Fleming provide a brief overview of the Illinois Maternal Health Task Force and its proposed strategic plan.

The group reviewed two priorities. The first priority was the Equal Access to High Quality Care and two of its strategies regarding telehealth utilization and obstetric care deserts. The second priority was Root/Structural Causes of Health and its strategies on pipeline, transportation/housing and other economic factors.

During the discussion on housing, the group stated that it was important that the overall taskforce also address the issue of pregnant and parenting homeless women. There was a suggestion of including an intake sheet for participants in the Listening Session to gather some basic demographics including where they reside and any fluctuation in their residency.

Planning Document

With 15 minutes remaining, the group briefly discussed the planning document. They made a small edit to the objective for priority 2 and added another action step. Dr. Fleming asked everyone to review the document and provide feedback for the next meeting which is scheduled for Wednesday, September 30th. Kenya said she would send out the document to everyone as well as put it in the Google Drive. She also informed Karyn Stewart that she was working on the research excel spreadsheet and would send it to her shortly.

Adjournment

With nothing further to discuss, the group did a one-word check out exercise and the meeting was adjourned at 2:31 pm.